

# The Lake Jackson Journal



*The City of Enchantment*

VOLUME 05-26

FALL 2005



Fire-EMS Station Grand Opening

COVER STORY ON PAGE 4

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
*published by the City of Lake Jackson*



*The City of*



*Enchantment*

## Greetings from the Mayor

To the Citizens of Lake Jackson,  
Greetings and Salutations,

The long awaited ribbon cutting for the new Fire and EMS building dedicated to former Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Paul Israel has finally occurred. This is a very functional and beautiful facility, which will serve the community for many years to come. Fortunately, the facility was not tested to the full design strength during Hurricane Rita, but the design functionality was adequately proven for the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel in a catastrophic event it was proven for. This facility actually served many other people from the surrounding communities as a rest stop and sometimes a place to grab a hot meal. Thank you to the citizens of Lake Jackson who approved the sale of bonds to build this facility.

On the subject of Hurricane Rita, the majority of Lake Jackson residents, as well as the surrounding communities, heeded the advice of the Emergency Operations decision makers and evacuated. Although some had a very long and arduous trip, we extend out thanks to you for getting out of harms way if the hurricane had come here. We sincerely hope that you will evacuate again should the need arise. If you have any doubts please take the time to look at some of the areas all the way up into East Texas which were severely affected by the high winds and flooding. Many of the folks that opted to stay, ultimately had to leave due to lack of food, water, electricity and other utilities. The emergency services in many of these communities were overloaded as well.

The evacuation plan will be a topic of discussion until at least the next hurricane season, as many of our state and county elected officials along with local mayors and emergency personnel will be looking at what went right and what went wrong with the Governor's office, TxDOT and the DPS. These discussions will include, but won't be limited to, alternate routes, additional lanes, freedom to evacuate on individual routes, contra-flow options, law enforcement assistance, shelter availability, when to evacuate, medical personnel, grocery store cooperation and fuel supply options. We appreciate your feedback on this or any other issues you may have related to local, county or state government.

Overall, the evacuation is considered a success, given that evacuating this number of people has never been attempted before. A plan was developed that did not get fully implemented and a number of problems have been identified that will be worked on. The focus will still be on trying to make sure we have the best evacuation plan available to safely get everyone out in as short a period of time as possible. Keep in mind that no emergency shelters will be available in Brazoria County during a storm, even if limited communications are available, emergency personnel will not be asked to risk their lives for those who did not heed the warnings.

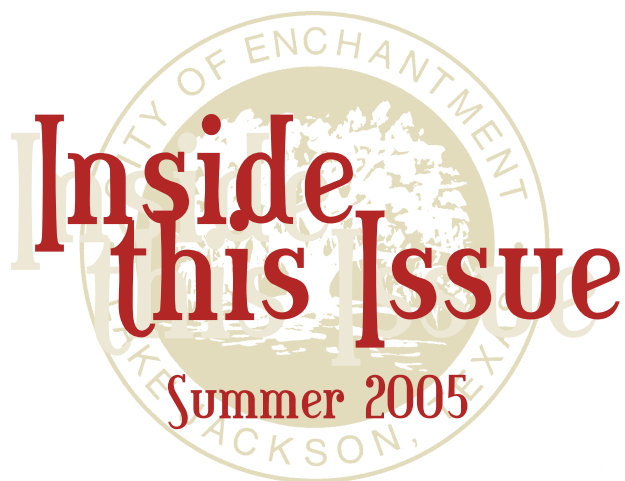
We need to count our blessings in the Brazosport Community as we all have many things to be thankful for.

Best Wishes To All,

Shane Pirtle  
Mayor of Lake Jackson

## Lake Jackson Mission Statement

**It is the mission of the city of Lake Jackson to be a leader among cities and in the region at large in delivering outstanding quality services to all citizens through innovative and efficient use of resources.**



City Directory .....	2
Boards & Commissions Meeting Schedule .....	3
Fire/EMS Grand Opening .....	4
Fire .....	5
Police .....	7
F. Y. I. ....	7
Public Works .....	8
Festival of Lights .....	9
Hurricane Rita Evacuation .....	11
Seniors .....	13
Recreational Events .....	13
Bank Draft Authorization Form .....	14

## Directory

### Phone Numbers

Emergency - Only! (police, fire and ambulance)	911
Non-Emergency	415-2700
Fire/EMS	415-2710
City Hall	415-2400
Utility Billing	415-2434
Public Works	415-2430
Inspections	415-2432
Engineering	415-2413
City Manager/Administration	415-2500
Civic Center	415-2600
Recreation Center	297-4533
Humane Center	415-2700
Regional Animal Shelter	285-2340
Municipal Court	297-1031
Library	415-2509

### City Council E-Mail

#### Mayor

Shane Pirtle      spirtle@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us

#### Councilmembers

Joe Rinehart      jrinehart@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us  
 Charlie Golden      cgolden@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us  
 Gerald Roznovsky      groznovsky@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us  
 Rob Dotson      rdotson@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us  
 Bob Sipple      bsipple@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us

### Department Directors

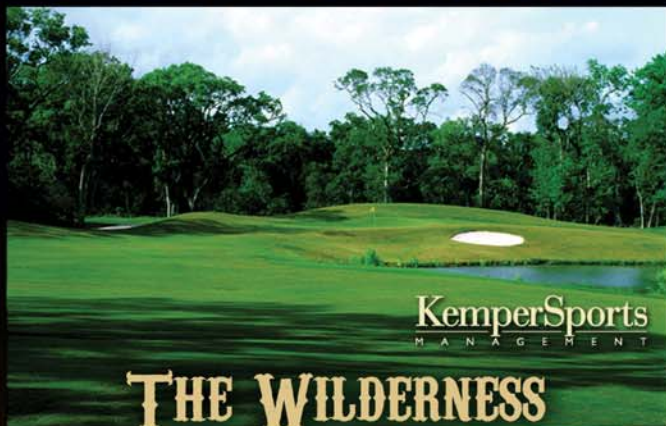
<b>City Manager</b>	William P. Yenne wyenne@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>Asst. City Manager</b>	Modesto Mundo mmundo@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>City Engineer</b>	Sal Aguirre saguirre@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>City Secretary</b>	Alice Rodgers arodgers@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>Finance Director</b>	Pam Eaves peaves@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>Fire Marshal</b>	Randy Crim rcrim@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>Parks &amp; Rec. Director</b>	Woody Eastman weastman@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>Police Chief</b>	Paul Hromadka ljchief@brazosport.edu
<b>Public Works Director</b>	Craig Nisbett cnisbett@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us
<b>Personnel Director</b>	Carmen Williams cwilliams@ci.lake-jackson.tx.us

Visit our Website at  
[www.ci.lake-jackson.tx.us](http://www.ci.lake-jackson.tx.us)





# Experience The Wilderness GOLF COURSE



## THE WILDERNESS

was awarded by the National Publication "Golf Inc." magazine the designation as "Runner-Up" in the \$5MM dollar category for new developments which opened in 2004. This is a great award as it takes into consideration all projects across the country that qualified in that particular category. We ran second to a development north of Albuquerque, New Mexico called Sandia Peak Resort.

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS & COORDINATORS,

*Call for fall special rates  
for your next tournament outing.*

**THE**  
  
**WILDERNESS**

**LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS**

501 W. Hwy. 332, Lake Jackson, TX 77566

**979.297.GOLF(4653)**

**www.thewildernessgc.com**

## Boards & Commissions Meeting Schedule



### City Council

6:30p.m. • 1st & 3rd Monday

### Planning Commission

7 p.m. • 1st Tuesday

### Youth Advisory Commission

(meets at police station)

6 p.m. • 1st Tuesday

### Traffic Commission

7 p.m. • 2nd Tuesday

### Keep Lake Jackson Beautiful

6 p.m. • 3rd Tuesday

### Senior Citizen Commission

(meets at civic center)

6:30 p.m. • 4th Monday

### Parks & Recreation Board

7 p.m. • 4th Tuesday

### Library Board

(meets at library)

5:15 p.m. • Quarterly - 3rd Tuesday

### As Called:

Animal Control

Board of Health

LJ Development Corporation

Museum Board

Zoning Board of Adjustments

Charter Review Commission (Odd Years)

*All meetings,*

*unless otherwise noted, are held at*

*Lake Jackson City Hall • 25 Oak Drive*

*You are cordially invited to attend*



# The City of Enchantment Fire-EMS Grand Opening



*Dedicated to retired Fire Chief, Paul Israel, who gave 42 years of service to the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department. May his deep sense of civic responsibility and forty-two years of dedicated service to the citizens of Lake Jackson always remain a shining example to the fire firefighters who follow in his footsteps.*







## CANDLES

### Candle Safety 101

*Are candles a fire hazard?*... IF they are properly used, no they are not a significant fire hazard. However, all too often, they are not used properly, or they are left unattended. This is when the fires occur.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 1998, the latest year for statistics, there were 12,540 home candle fires. This is an important fact since almost 2/3 of the students in the United States live off-campus in homes and apartments.

Almost half (44%) of the fires started in the bedrooms. Candle fires cause an average of \$144.5 million in damage each year and kill 119 people.

Candle fires have been rising dramatically over the past few years, probably because of the increasing demand for candles. Over the past four years, the candle industry has tripled in response to this demand.

*What are some of the common causes of home candle fires?*... Half of the fires occurred because of carelessness.

- Over one-third started because the candles were left unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled.
- Almost 20% of the fires occurred because combustible material was too close to the candle.

The most common material ignited is mattresses or bedding, followed by cabinetry and then curtains or drapes.

*What are some safety tips?*... The NFPA offers the following safety tips...

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or when going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire such as clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammable decorations or anything else that burns.
- Make sure candles are placed on a stable piece of furniture in sturdy holders that won't tip over. Candles should fit in the holders securely and holders should be made from material that can't burn.

#### *candle safety tips continued*

- Use flashlights for temporary lighting in power outages, not candles. Keep plenty of fresh batteries on hand during thunderstorm seasons.
- Make sure the candleholder is big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- When purchasing or using candles, consider what would happen if the candle burned low. Could it burn the candleholder or decorative material nearby?
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.
- Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Votives and container candles should be extinguished before the last ½ inch of wax starts to melt.

### Juvenile Firesetters

Children start up to 40% of all SET fires in America. This is very compelling as these numbers come from the National Fire Incident Reporting System ... and it is estimated that only 10% of all fires in the U.S. ever get reported to fire departments. Fifty percent (50%) of child set fires occur in people's homes and other structures (U.S. Fire Administration).

Arson is the leading crime committed by juveniles, with 55% of all arrests for arson being children. For example: juvenile gun violence receives widespread media attention, but only accounts for 15% of juvenile crime (F.B.I.).

Fire is the leading cause of accidental death in the home for children 5 years old and under (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission).

Firesetting not dealt with has an 81% probability of being repeated because it is a very self-rewarding behavior. No matter what the motivation is, fire can be extremely empowering, fun, daring, interesting, attention getting and destructive.

Appropriate fire prevention and intervention treatment programs work in better than 90% of cases!





# Safety Section

# Fire



## Holiday Safety

A cozy fire candlelight, the scent of a newly cut pine tree and glowing colored lights - the holiday season wouldn't seem festive without them. Unfortunately, these cherished elements of the winter holidays carry fire risks.

### Christmas Trees

A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember: A fresh tree is green.

#### *What are other signs of a fresh tree?*

Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches. Fresh needles do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin. A shower of falling needles shows that the tree is too dry.

Once you have chosen a fresh tree, follow these tips for keeping it safe:

- Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with widespread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.
- Keep your tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces and radiators. Remember heated rooms rapidly dry out trees, creating a fire hazard.
- Place tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling. These wires are almost invisible.
- Dispose of your tree when needles begin to fall. Trees drop their needles when they become too dry and thus too flammable.
- Artificial trees should be made of fire-resistant material; look for a statement specifying this protection. Keep artificial trees away from heat sources.

### Fireplaces

- Remove all green, boughs and paper decorations from the fireplace area before lighting a fire.
- Check to see that the flue is open.
- Keep a screen before the fireplace when a fire is burning.
- Be sure the fireplace is cold before closing the flue.
- Never use your fireplace as an incinerator to burn wrapping or evergreen boughs. These can burn suddenly and rapidly and cause a flash fire.

### Decorative Lights

- Indoors or outdoors, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory or Factory Mutual.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other supports to protect from wind damage. Direct outside bulbs downward to

keep moisture out of the sockets, and use ornament hooks - not tails or tracks - to hang lights.

- Use no more than three standard-sized sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Arrange bulbs so that they touch as few needles as possible
- Use miniature bulbs for the most energy-efficient Christmas lighting. A strand of 35 miniatures uses less than 20 watts of electricity, while a single standard bulb uses 5 to 7 watts per bulb.
- Use flame-resistant or non-combustible decorations. Hang shiny ornaments to reflect lights so you do not need as many lights.
- Don't leave decorative lights on when you are out or asleep.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree could become

charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching it could become electrocuted. Instead, use colored spotlights above or beside the tree.

- Keep bubbling lights away from children. Children may be tempted to break the candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and attempt to drink the liquid, which contains a hazardous chemical.

### Candles

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens, paper and decorations.
- Use non-flammable holders.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down.
- Do not light too many candles. It's too easy to forget them and leave them burning after you leave the house or go to bed.

### Paper Trimmings

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials. Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angle hair" to avoid irritation to eyes and skin.
- Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded materials. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested.
- In homes with small children, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.
- Keep trimmings with small, removable parts out of reach of children.
- Avoid trimmings that look like candy or food. A child might be tempted to eat them!
- When making paper decorations, use materials labeled non-combustible or flame-resistant.
- Never place trimmings near open flames or electrical connections.
- Remove all wrapping papers from tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.

### Decorative "Snow"

Artificial snow sprayers can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels and follow directions carefully.

# Police



## Blue Santa

The BLUE SANTA program is a program that was started by the Lake Jackson Police Department employees to help needy kids at Christmas. This program has expanded to include help by many city employees. The program has grown every year. Besides toys for the children the families receive a gift card for food.

### Blue Santa History

1996 - 20 families associated, 65 children  
1997 - 43 families associated, 157 children  
1998 - 55 families associated, 193 children  
1999 - 85 families associated, 239 children  
2000 - 87 families associated, 256 children  
2001 - 50 families associated, 160 children  
2002 - 60 families associated, 165 children  
2003 - 65 families associated, 170 children  
2004 - 93 families associated, 237 children

Blue Santa referrals will be accepted starting in November with the party on Dec. 21. We will accept new unwrapped gifts. A special need is for teenagers.



## Citizens Police Academy

Applications are being accepted for the spring CPA class.

## Neighborhood Watch

If your neighborhood has an active neighborhood watch program please contact Officer Wright with the name of the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

**POLICE 415-2700**

# F.Y.I.



The City of Lake Jackson has **Cable Channel 16** to provide a variety of information to you, the citizen. We hope you find this information useful. For questions concerning information on this channel, please contact Kim Knapp at 415-2407. Thank you.

## Scoop the Poop

Pet waste is a subject everyone likes to avoid. The main problem is that sometimes it becomes unavoidable. Pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, streets and the neighbor's yard is unsightly, smelly and can pose a health risk.



The City's new Animal Feces Ordinance requires that citizens immediately remove and dispose of feces left by a dog being handled by that person on property, public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog.

In the case of an individual failing to pick up after their pet please contact the Humane Department at 415-2700,

Please help Keep Lake Jackson Beautiful. Only you can be number one in the number two business.



# Public Works



## Are Your Contractors Licensed?

Ask to see their card! In the City of Lake Jackson, it is required that all Electricians, Plumbers, and Mechanical (AC) Contractors have a Texas State License, and are registered with the City of Lake Jackson. The State of Texas issues License Cards which are credit card sized, and easily fit in a wallet. If you don't know whether or not they are licensed, ask to see their card! To find out if a contractor is registered with the City, just call the Public Works Department at 415-2430.

## Christmas Trees

Christmas Trees will be collected at the curbside starting after January 1, 2006.

If you do not wish to wait for the tree collection at the curb, you may bring your Christmas tree to the Mulch Site, which is located at 103 Canna Lane. There will be no charge.



## Holiday Garbage Schedule

Sanitation crews work every holiday EXCEPT Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. There will be NO garbage pickup on these days.

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
**415-2430**

## Fire Hydrant Flushing

The City of Lake Jackson will be flushing the fire hydrants on January 3 and 4, 2006. Please be aware that there may be brown water coming from the faucets, and please refrain from washing laundry that could possibly be stained.

## Tree Preservation Ordinance

The City of Lake Jackson has a Tree Preservation Ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that the forest of the City should be preserved and enhanced for future generations. Mature trees, if destroyed, can be replaced only after generations of time.

There will be times when a tree removal permit is required:

- **Undeveloped properties** - Tree Removal Permits will be required, and a landscape plan must be submitted to the City.
- **Commercial properties** - a Tree Removal Permit will be required if a tree has a diameter of 12 inches or greater.
- **Existing residential homes** - Tree Removal permits are not required.

If you are concerned about the improper removal of trees, or if you have any further questions, please contact the Lake Jackson Building Official at 415-2430 for more information

## Please Don't Burn Your Leaves!

The City of Lake Jackson Code of Ordinances states that... "It shall be unlawful for any person to burn, or allow to be burned, within the city, any garbage."

If you have leaves, branches, tree debris, etc., take it to the Mulch site instead! The Mulch site is located at 103 Canna Lane, near the Brazosport Memorial Hospital. And while you're there, pick up some mulch! It's available free to City of Lake Jackson residents. The hours of operation are Tuesday – Friday, 8:30 – 4:30, Saturday 8:30 – 3:30. Closed Sunday and Monday.



# Lake Jackson Festival of Lights



## Saturday November 19, 2005

**Gobbler Cook-off**  
November 11-12, 2005  
MacLean Park

**Youth Talent Show**  
Friday, November 18, 2005  
Lake Theatre @ 6:30 pm  
Audition & Registration  
November 13th  
Civic Center @ 2:00 pm  
Call Jeri 415-2707

**Little Princess Pageant**  
10:00 am  
Civic Center Ballroom  
Deadline for Entries - Nov. 11

**Food/Craft Booths**  
10:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Outside Civic Center

**Photo Contest Display &  
Brazoria County Doll Club**  
Inside Civic Center

**Parade of Lights**  
7:00 pm  
Downtown  
Deadline to enter Nov. 16  
(based on space availability)

**LJ Historical Museum**  
Open FREE all day



**Tropical Christmas**

**Bring your family...  
Spend the day...  
enjoy some festive activities.**

**Need information?  
Call 415-2500 or 415-2600**

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Civic Center Parking Lot

- Carnival
- Petting Zoo - Free
- Pony Rides - Free
- Inflatable Slides - Free
- Trackless Trains - Free
- Clowns - Free
- Lasermaze - Free
- Rock Climbing - Free
- Snowland - Free
- Mechanical Bull - Free
- Craft Activities - Free
- Visit with Santa Claus - Free

Applications may be  
picked up at the  
Civic Center  
or downtown  
from our website

[www.ci.lake-jackson.tx.us](http://www.ci.lake-jackson.tx.us)



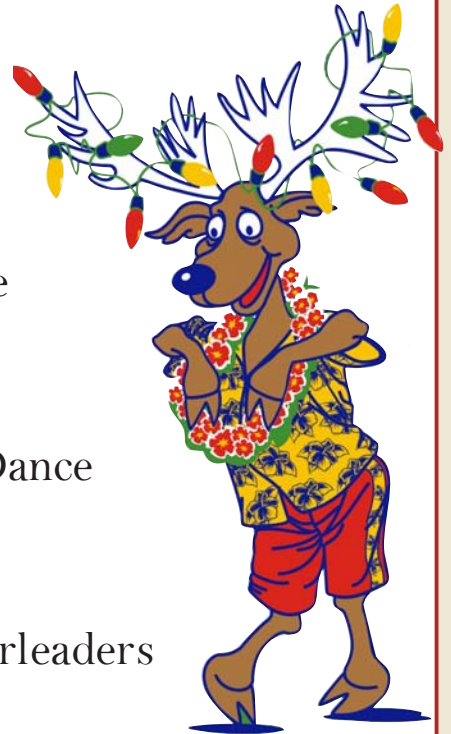
# Festival of Lights



## Entertainment Schedule

### Civic Center Plaza

- |       |                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 10:00 | Opening Ceremonies             |
| 10:30 | LJI Choir                      |
| 11:30 | Jana's School of Dance         |
| 12:00 | Dance Moves                    |
| 12:30 | Brazoswood Buc Drumline        |
| 1:00  | All American Gymnastics        |
| 1:30  | Elite Techniques               |
| 2:00  | Barbie Rhodes School of Dance  |
| 2:30  | Ballet Folklorico              |
| 3:00  | Attitudes Dance                |
| 3:30  | Texas Tumbleweeds Cheerleaders |
| 4:00  | Kim West Dance Studio          |
| 4:30  | Bluebonnet Cloggers            |
| 5:00  | Nei Wai Chi Kung Fu            |
| 5:30  | Promenaders                    |
| 6:00  | LJI Cheerleaders               |
| 6:15  | Tree Lighting                  |
| 7:00  | Parade                         |
| 8:00  | Live Entertainment             |



# Hurricane Rita... LJ's Evacuation



The last time we witnessed a nearly complete evacuation of Lake Jackson and the Brazosport Area was for Hurricane Allen back in August, 1980. Back then there were no mandatory routes and residents could take any route they desired. The horror stories of hours on the road to safety then caused many people to proclaim that they would never evacuate again. Then in 1983 Alicia, a minimal category 3 storm, hit our area. Because of how quickly this storm strengthened and memories of the Hurricane Allen evacuation, most people chose to stay. After the long harrowing night, the weeks of long power outages and the like, many proclaimed they would never stay for a storm again.

Fast forward to 2005. We all witnessed the devastation of Hurricane Katrina which struck Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Then here comes Rita. Plans that had been developed in the time between Alicia and Rita were put in to effect. Some portions worked, other portions failed miserably.

For years we have been harping on the need for more and better evacuation routes. After twenty plus years of efforts our County voters approved bonds to supplement the State's widening of SH36 to 4 lanes. But it still hasn't been designed yet. Efforts to widen lanes, put in overpasses and to design "contra-flow" lanes has met various roadblocks and challenges over the years. Then the State of Texas devised our mandatory evacuation routes. We reluctantly agreed to the plan to take Lake Jackson residents through Houston based on emphatic assurances that all Houston traffic would be kept off the Beltway during our phase of the evacuation. A phased evacuation will only work if everyone follows the plan. The coastal counties followed the plan. As we went inland, the plan failed – with tragic results.

With Katrina fresh in our minds and Rita reaching enormous strength, the evacuation began before it was called. It appears those who left before noon on Wednesday fared much better than those who left after noon. The beltway was not blocked off as planned and soon turned into a parking lot.

Our buses, with special needs people on them and others with no means of transportation, left Lake Jackson Intermediate School

at 3:00 pm on Wednesday. They got to Bryan-College Station about 3:00 pm Thursday – and there was no room at the inn. They later went on to Austin and eventually returned on Sunday after a 96 hour odyssey around our State. The patience and perseverance of the evacuees, and their overall good attitude was amazing. And our bus drivers were nothing short of heroic.

We must learn from this. Some things did go right. Too many things went wrong. The greatest fear now is that this massive evacuation has left such a sour taste in peoples mouths that they may not evacuate in the future. That would be tragic.



The recent town meeting held by our State Senators (Jackson and Janek) and our State Representatives (Dawson and Bonnen) was a good first step. Because it will take State action and coordination to see that future plans are followed by all those involved.

We encourage you to write down your suggestions on what can and should be done to improve evacuation routes/planning. We must keep the pressure on and keep the memory of this

evacuation fresh in lawmakers and officials minds so that it stays a high priority. We need to remove obstacles from improving and building new evacuation routes, adding lane capacity and removing bottlenecks at key inland intersections and communities.

We want to thank all of you for the orderly evacuation and return to our community. We apologize profusely for the failure of the plan to work as devised and for the hardships that you had to endure. But we must all take pause and reflect on how blessed we were that this massive storm shifted significantly to the east and just gave us a glancing blow. Our thoughts and prayers are with our neighbors and friends in East Texas and in Western Louisiana.

Please send your suggestions to:  
Office of The City Manager  
City of Lake Jackson  
25 Oak Drive  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566



## *Thank You to those who stayed behind,*

On behalf of the City Councils and the citizens of the community, I would like to express our sincere thanks to those who stayed behind to protect our property and assist people during the evacuation for hurricane Rita. With over 95% of the area evacuated, the city staff, city employees, county employees, fire fighters, EMS personnel, local, county and state law enforcement continued to watch over the community and take care of business.

The area cities, in conjunction with the county emergency operations, successfully followed our regional evacuation plan to get our residents to safety in a timely manner. County and City elected officials, city managers, local police officers, Sheriff's department, Department of Public Safety and area emergency services all communicated and coordinated their activities admirably well.

Those who needed assistance or wanted to be evacuated were taken care of including area hospitals, nursing and assisted living homes, special needs people, those without transportation and some Katrina evacuees. The school districts, Angleton, Columbia-Brazoria, Sweeny and Brazosport, stepped in to provide buses and some volunteer drivers for those who needed transportation to a shelter. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all of the bus drivers, for not only escorting these evacuees, but enduring a trip that no one should have to bear.

Our Emergency Management, City Managers and staff should be commended for doing a fantastic job of preparing for a catastrophic event. Emergency procedures were in place, personnel were aware of their responsibilities, EO call centers were set up and manned to assist citizens, emergency generators and large portable pumps were strategically placed to maintain utilities and minimize flooding.

A special "Thank You" goes to several of our Lake Jackson Firefighters for cooking and serving some excellent meals throughout the week. They provided meals for several hundred people, including Coast Guard personnel, DPS troopers, County deputies and hospital personnel.

As we count our blessings and say our prayers for those who were less fortunate, we need to keep in mind those awesome folks in this county who generously give of their time and talents to take care of their neighbors. It would require several pages to list all who were involved in this monumental task, so I ask all who come into contact with these folks listed here, to personally tell them Thank You, for their dedication, compassion and service to their community. Although it seems inadequate, a heartfelt "THANK YOU" goes to each and every one of these people for all that they have done and all they will continue to do for us.

Sincerely,



Shane Pirtle  
Mayor of Lake Jackson

The City of Lake Jackson would like to extend a special thanks to all the numerous businesses in the community that provided services to the City of Lake Jackson employees and volunteers during Hurricane Rita. Many local restaurants provided food and resources to our police, fire, ems and city staff. We truly appreciate your kindness and continued support. Thank You!

# Seniors



The Lake Jackson Senior Citizens Commission has served over 11,000 seniors in an effort to uphold their mission of "making a difference in the life of every person who is 55 and older".

## — Upcoming Events —

### November

**Nov. 22nd - Thanksgiving Dinner**  
Civic Center - \$3.00 per person  
Come enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings.  
Karoke entertainment and door prizes!



### December

**Dec. 2nd, 3rd & 4th - Christmas Trip to San Antonio**  
This great trip is a two night, three day trip to San Antonio.  
\$200 single, \$220 couple



## Board Members

Thelma McDaniel, Chair.	297-2284-h	thelmamc@sbcglobal.net
Barbara Blanchard	265-1967-h	bonjour@houston.rr.com
Estella Cabrera, Vice Chair.	417-5437-c	stellacabrera@yahoo.com
Nathan Corrick	297-1817-h	nathancorrick@sbcglobal.net
Terry Cummings	297-3022-h	terryc1956@sbcglobal.net
Galen Dinning	297-7745-h	gdinning@swbell.net
Sandy Erickson, Secretary	292-0109-h	serickso@brazosport.edu
George Stewart	297-3302-h	gwstewart@swbell.net
Bob Winters	265-8022-h	bobw70@sbcglobal.net

# Recreational Events



### Dad & Daughter Valentines's Dance

Friday, February 10th  
At the Lake Jackson Civic Center Ballroom  
Dancing, refreshments and photography.  
Tickets available at the Recreation Center  
\$10 per couple (in advance)  
\$15 per couple (at the door)

### TAAF Basketball

Boys and Girls ages 5 - 16  
Games start in January  
\$30 registration fee



**Rec. Center 297-4533**



cut along dotted line



**CITY OF LAKE JACKSON**  
**25 Oak Drive-Lake Jackson, TX 77566-5289**  
**Telephone 415-2434 Fax 297-9804**  
**AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN**

**Name on Your Utility Statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Utility Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Driver's License Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Social Security Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Institution Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Institution Address (City & State):** \_\_\_\_\_

**BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER TO BE CHARGED** \_\_\_\_\_ **CIRCLE ONE**  
**checking/savings**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING!!!!**

I authorize the City of Lake Jackson to begin deductions for my monthly utility bill with the financial institution named. Enrollment in the automatic payment plan may be discontinued any time by sending a request, in writing, to the City of Lake Jackson. My authority will remain in effect until revoked by my financial institution, the City of Lake Jackson, or myself. I understand that both my financial institution and the City of Lake Jackson have the right to terminate this payment plan or my participation therein. *If I have two insufficient bank drafts within a year, the City will terminate my enrollment in bank drafting.*

I understand that I will be responsible for the first bill that I receive after the City obtains my application. However if my bank is currently set up in the bank drafting program my automatic payment plan will be effective with my first bill. This bill will have a message at the bottom stating: **BANK DRAFT-DO NOT PAY. PAYMENT WILL BE DRAFTED ON THE DUE DATE!**

Signature (Must be authorized for the account listed above)

Date

WRITE "VOID" ACROSS CHECK AND TAPE HERE  
(Please tape—DO NOT STAPLE)



City of Lake Jackson  
25 Oak Drive  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DIRECT EFFECT  
Permit 32

Postal Customer



## Christmas Shopping Safety Tips

- Keep packages out of view when in car.
- Have keys out and ready to enter car.
- Do not sit in car with your attention not focused to surroundings.
- Do not flash large sums of cash.
- Check your credit card receipts and properly dispose of them.
- Park in well lit areas.
- Check vehicle before entering it.
- Keep vehicle locked.
- Stay in high traffic areas, do not use isolated stairs or hallways.

Have a Safe  
and Happy  
Holiday Season!